



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of March 27, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- Describe a time when you were dared by your sibling, or a friend, to do something that turned out to be dangerous?
- Have you ever been extremely dehydrated? What was that like? What effects did it have on you?

Context

The world today is confused about who Jesus is and what he has come into the world to accomplish. This is not new. When Jesus walked the earth and performed miracles two thousand years ago, people were confused about Jesus. Some said he was a good man, others said he was a deceiver, and others said he was the Son of God. It is in the midst of this confusion that Jesus goes to the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem to proclaim that he has been sent by the Father to accomplish the Father's will of ushering in the Kingdom of God and to give his life as a sacrifice for the sin of the world. He has come to bring living water and eternal life to all who would place their complete loyalty and trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 7:10-44 NIV

"However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. 11 Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?" 12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." 13 But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders. 14 Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. 15 The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?" 16 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. 17 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. 18 Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. 19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?" 20 "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?" 21 Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. 22 Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. 23 Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath? 24 Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly." 25 At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? 26 Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? 27 But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." 28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, 29 but I know him because I am from him and he sent me." 30 At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, "When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?" 32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him. 33 Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. 34 You will look for

me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come." 35 The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? 36 What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?" 37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. 40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? 42 Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" 43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. 44 Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him."

Each day of the Feast of Tabernacles the priest took a golden pitcher and went down to the Pool of Siloam and filled it with water. It was carried back through the Water Gate while the people recited Isaiah 12:3 "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation". The water was carried up to the Temple altar and poured out as an offering to God. The whole dramatic ceremony was a vivid thanksgiving for God's good gift of water. The last day of the ceremony (John 7:37) was doubly dramatic as they marched seven times round the altar in memory of the seven marches around the walls of Jericho before God gave them the victory. It is against this background, and perhaps at this very moment, that Jesus' voice rang out, "If anyone is thirsty,..." (v. 37-38)

Discuss

1. Do you remember when you first heard about Jesus? When did He become meaningful to you?
2. What were the people in Jerusalem saying about Jesus? Did all of the people have the same opinion of Jesus? Read [John 7:12-13, 15, 20](#). Do you hear some of these same opinions about Jesus today?
3. If someone were to approach you on the street and ask you, "Who is Jesus?" how would you respond?
4. Does fear keep you from speaking openly about Jesus today? What are some ways that we can help each other overcome that fear?
5. When Jesus begins teaching in the temple, what is the reaction of the people who hear him? How does this reaction confirm that Jesus is the Son of God? Where does Jesus say his teaching comes from? Who receives glory when Jesus speaks and teaches?
6. What does the Apostle John tell us in verse 39, that helps us understand what Jesus means when he says "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water"? Is this a fulfillment of prophecy? Read [Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17](#).
7. Is the Holy Spirit promised to be a part of the life of every Christian? Read [Acts 2:38-39](#).
8. How does the Holy Spirit act in the life of a Christian? Read [Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 8:14; 8:26-27](#). (There are many more.)
9. How has the Holy Spirit helped you live the Christian life?
10. Has the flow of the Spirit in your life lately felt more like a parched desert? Refreshing spring? Clogged faucet? Why? What practices, activities, spiritual disciplines, or soul training exercises might help with that?
11. We live in a world that is thirsty for the things that Jesus offers. Things like grace, peace, purpose, and meaning are sought after at all costs by people all around us. Jesus is inviting all people to come and drink regardless of who they are or what they have done in the past. Who do you know that needs to have their spiritual thirst quenched? How can you share your story of your journey with Jesus with them over the coming weeks? How can you share the living water of Jesus with them?

End Your Group Time in Prayer